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EXAMINER

HUYNH, CONG LAC T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/222,554

Applicant(s)

SANJAY ET AL.

Examiner

Cong-Lac Huynh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 1998.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: both of the forms "key word" and "keyword" are used in the claims. It is suggested that applicants select either one of these for consistency. Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

2. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

3. Claim 3 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 2. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

5. Claims 1-7, 16, 20-23, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Markowitz et al. (US Pat No. 6,311,185 B1, 10/20/01, filed 10/30/97).

Regarding independent claim 1, Markowitz discloses:

- automatically determining a content data of the given information unit (col 1, lines 32-42, ...displaying advertisement on their Web pages...including an advertisement in the *original HTML data that defines a Web page*... a Web page containing travel tips ...could include... a hotel advertisement; the fact that an advertisement is included directly in a Web page based on the data or the content of the Web page shows that the content data of the given information unit, which is a web page as explained in the abstracts and the specification (page 3), is determined automatically; col 2, lines 60-64)
- automatically selecting the chosen information unit as a function of the content data of the given information unit(col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18,... the Web

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page currently being requested can similarly be used to select an appropriate advertisement...; the *chosen* information unit is considered as a *candidate* information unit since it is *selected* unit, and as in the abstract, the candidate information unit is an advertisement, therefore, the chosen information unit is an advertisement *selected as a candidate information unit* related to the content of a Web page)

Regarding independent claim 2, Markowitz discloses:

- determining a content data of the candidate information unit (col 1, lines 32-42; col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18, the fact that an appropriate advertisement is selected to be included in a Web page shows that the content data of an advertisement, which is a candidate information unit as explained in the abstract, is determined)
- automatically determining a content data of the given information unit (col 1, lines 32-42; col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18, the fact that an appropriate advertisement is selected to be included in a Web page shows that the content data of a Web page, which is a given information unit as explained in the abstract, *is also determined* to find out the relationship between a web page and an related advertisement)
- comparing the content data of the given information unit to the content data of the candidate information unit (col 1, lines 32-42; col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18, the fact that an appropriate advertisement is selected to be included in a Web

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page shows that the content data of the candidate information unit, which is an advertisement, and the content data of the given information unit, which is a given information unit as explained in the abstract, *are compared* to see if the two are related)

- selecting the candidate information unit for linking to the given information unit as a function of said step of comparing the content data of the given information unit to the content data of the candidate information unit (col 1, lines 32-42; col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18)

Regarding to independent claim 3, the limitations of claim 3 are almost identical to that of claim 2, except in claim 3 the step of comparing is disclosed as “automatically comparing....” whereas in claim 2, the step is disclosed as “comparing”

Since all of the related steps are done by the system automatically, it would have obvious that the step of comparing is also done automatically by the system.

Therefore, claim 3 is rejected under the same reason as in claim 2.

Regarding claims 4 and 7, which are dependent on claims 3 and 4 respectively, Markowitz discloses placing the candidate information unit in a *look-up tree* according to the content data of the candidate information (figure 3, #320 database look-up and #330 select advertisement from database imply that the candidate information unit, which is an advertisement, is placed in a *look-up database* according to the content data of the candidate information so that an related advertisement to a web page can be selected

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to incorporate to the web page; in addition, it was well known that any database is organized *in a hierarchy format, or a tree format*). The given information unit is a Web page (as defined in the abstract), and therefore, it is available on the Internet.

Regarding claim 5, which is dependent on claim 4, Markowitz discloses that automatically comparing the content data of the given information unit to the content data of the candidate information unit comprises traversing the look-up tree (figure 3, #320 database lookup and #330 select advertisement from database, show the traversing the look-up tree since a database is organized as a tree structure, and lookup a database implies traversing that database; col 4, lines 7-18, the advertisement selected from database that relates to a web page shows that the content of the advertisement and the content of the web page are compared to find out their relationship).

Regarding claim 6, which is dependent on claim 4, Markowitz discloses that the structure of the look-up tree includes the content data of the candidate information (figure 3, #320, #330; col 4, lines 7-18, the database should include the content data of the candidate information so that the comparing is performed to select advertisement from the database).

Regarding independent 16, Markowitz discloses:

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- automatically determining a user computer system data (col 1, lines 32-42; col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18, a web page, which is a user computer system data, is determined to select a related advertisement)
- selecting a chosen information unit as a function of the user computer system data (col 1, lines 32-42; col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18; figure 3, #320-#340 selecting an appropriate advertisement to incorporate to a web page)

Independent claims 20-22 are for a storage medium of method claims 1-3, and therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claim 23, which is dependent on claim 4, Markowitz discloses that the candidate information unit includes an advertisement to be displayed to a user (col 1, lines 32-42; col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18 as mentioned in claims 1-3).

Regarding independent claim 25, Markowitz discloses:

- a server (figure 3, #200; col 2, lines 59-60, server 200)
- a given information unit (figure 3, #600 ISP; col 1, lines 43-51, the content provider such as an Internet Service Provider ISP provides the contents of the web pages)
- a candidate information unit coupled to said server and given information unit (figure 3, # 200 server, #600 ISP and #214 repository database including advertisements are connected together; col 2, lines 65 to col 3, lines 1-18)

where the server adapted to:

- determine a content data of the candidate information unit (col 1, lines 32-42; col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18, the fact that an appropriate advertisement is selected to be included in a Web page shows that the content data of an advertisement, which is a candidate information unit as explained in the abstract, is determined)
- automatically determine a content data of the given information unit (col 1, lines 32-42; col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18, the fact that an appropriate advertisement is selected to be included in a Web page shows that the content data of a Web page, which is a given information unit as explained in the abstract, *is also determined* to find out the relationship between a web page and an related advertisement)
- automatically compare the content data of the given information unit to the content data of the candidate information unit to create a comparison result (col 1, lines 32-42; col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18, the fact that an appropriate advertisement is selected to be included in a Web page shows the result of the comparison between the content data of the candidate information unit, which is an advertisement, and the content data of the given information unit, which is a given information unit as explained in the abstract, because the two include related data)
- link the candidate information to the given information unit as a function of the comparison result (col 1, lines 32-42; col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 8-9, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Markowitz et al. (US Pat No. 6,311, 185 B1, 10/30/01, filed 10/30/97).

Regarding claim 8, which is dependent on claim 3, Markowitz does not disclose that determining the content data of the candidate information unit includes:

- collecting the content data of the candidate information unit
- incorporating the content data into the candidate information unit

- storing the candidate information unit and the content data of the candidate information unit

Instead Markowitz discloses storing advertisements in the database for lookup and for selecting (figure 3, #320 and #330).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Markowitz to include collecting the content data of the candidate information unit and incorporating the content data into the candidate information unit since the step storing of the candidate information unit suggests that the candidate information unit should be created including the content data of the candidate information first.

Regarding claim 9, which is dependent on claim 3, Markowitz does not disclose that determining the content data of the candidate information unit includes:

- collecting the content data of the candidate information unit
- linking the content data into the candidate information unit
- storing the candidate information unit and the content data of the candidate information unit

The difference between claims 8 and 9 is that instead of using the word "incorporating" as in claim 8, the word "linking" is used in claim 9.

Since "linking the content data to the candidate information unit" has the same meaning as "incorporating the content data to the candidate information unit" where the content

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data is included to the candidate information unit, claim 9 discloses the same subject matter as in claim 8.

Claim 9, therefore, is rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claim 24, which is dependent on claim 4, Markowitz does not explicitly disclose that the look-up tree includes at least one folder and at least one sub-folder. However, it was well known that any database is organized in a hierarchy structure or a tree structure.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Markowitz to include at least one folder and at least one sub-folder in the database since the hierarchy structure of the database in Markowitz suggests a structure of multiple folders of different levels.

9. Claims 10-15, 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Markowitz as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Yu (US Pat No. 6,067,552, 5/23/00, filed 3/30/98, priority 8/21/95).

Regarding claim 10, which is dependent on claim 3, Markowitz does not disclose:

- searching the given information unit
- indexing the given information unit to produce an indexed data
- performing a relevancy ranking on the indexed data

Yu discloses:

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- searching the given information unit (col 4, lines 11-15, *traverse a hypertext database ...*)
- indexing the given information unit to produce an indexed data (col 4, lines 15-22, storing an index in association with the hypertext database, the index comprising...)
- performing a relevancy ranking on the indexed data (col 4, lines 22-51, receiving a set of relevant index term values....comparing ..using the weighted relevancy ranking... producing a list of electronic documents... based on the relevancy ranking...)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Yu into Markowitz to facilitate the searching of the web page database using the web page indexing for a related advertisement.

Claim 11 includes the same subject matter as in claim 10, and is rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claims 12 and 13-14, which are dependent on claims 10 and 11 respectively, Markowitz discloses that the given information is available on the Internet, the given information includes a page of content on the World Wide Web, and the candidate information unit includes an advertisement to be displayed to a user (col 1, lines 32-42, col 2, lines 60 to col 3, lines 1-18, the given information is a web page, so it is available on the Internet, the related advertisement to a web page is displayed to a user).

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Regarding claim 15, which is dependent on claim 3, Markowitz does not disclose that determining a content data of the given information unit further includes:

- selecting a keyword
- counting a number of occurrences of the key word
- ranking the key word according to the number of occurrences of the keyword

Yu discloses:

- counting a number of occurrences of the key word (col 3, lines 43-58, ...the number of times a keyword appears in the content of the document....)
- ranking the key word according to the number of occurrences of the keyword (col 4, lines 23-63, ...setting a weighted relevancy ranking of each descriptive index term...)

Yu does not disclose explicitly selecting a keyword. However, the counting of a number of occurrences of the keyword in Yu shows that the keyword is selected for occurrence counting.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Yu into Markowitz for fast rendering the related data from a database using the ranking of keywords in a document.

Regarding claim 17, which is dependent on claim 12, Markowitz discloses:

- accessing a user computer system through a user Internet connection (figure 1)
- querying the user computer system to determine a user computer system data (col 2, lines 60-64, a user at the PC 500 requests a Web page)

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- returning the computer system data through the user Internet connection (col 2, lines 60-64, a requested web page from the Internet is displayed to a user)

Regarding claim 18, which is dependent on claim 3, Markowitz discloses that the given information unit includes a user-input information (col 2, lines 60-64, since a user has to make a request for a web page, the user has to input some information relating to a web page in the request).

Regarding claim 19, which is dependent on claim 14, Markowitz discloses:

- obtaining a user-input information (col 2, lines 60-64, the user input information for a web page is obtained in the user request)

Markowitz does not disclose incorporating the user-input information into the content data of the given information unit. Instead Markowitz discloses that once a user request for a web page is sent to the Internet Service Provider ISP, the ISP can obtain the HTML data related to the web page from the Internet (col 2, lines 60-64).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Markowitz to include incorporating the user-input information into the content data of the given information unit. The fact that the ISP can obtain the HTML data related to the web page from the Internet suggests that the user-input information, which is actually the keyword in the request, is included in the web page, the given information.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Robinstein et al. (US Pat No. 5,913,215, 6/15/99, filed 2/19/97, priority 4/9/96).

Wordarz et al. (US Pat No. 5,999,912, 12/7/99, filed 5/1/97, priority 5/1/96).

Bharat et al. (US Pat No. 6,112,203, 8/29/00, filed 4/9/98).

Broder et al. (US Pat No. 6,073,135, 6/6/00, filed 3/10/98).


Robertson et al. (US Pat No. 6,216,123 B1, 4/10/01, filed 6/24/98).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cong-Lac Huynh whose telephone number is 703-305-0432. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 703-308-5186. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 707-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9000.

clh
3/18/02


STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER